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The period from 1870 to 1880 was one of readjustment. The traditions of the "forty-niners" died away. But the readjustment did not take place without violent convulsions, both economic and political. Beginning in 1872 there was an era of speculative excitement connected with mining which has been likened to the Mississippi Scheme and the South Sea Bubble. This, known as the "Bonanza Mining Boom," seems to have involved the whole community not excepting the banks. The "boom burst" in 1875. From that time until 1880 the general trend of prices, wages, and interest was downward. This led to general unrest and political disturbance which culminated in the new constitution adopted in 1879.

Since 1880 the economic history of California, or at least of the city of San Francisco and vicinity, has not differed so very much from that of the rest of the country. In view of the facts just narrated it has been deemed advisable to divide the tables into two parts at the year 1880. General averages are given for the entire time covered, also for the years since and for those prior to 1880.

CARL C. PLEHN.

MARRIAGES OF THE DEAF.

Marriages of the Deaf in America. By Edward Allen Fay, Vice-President and Professor of Languages in Gallaudet College, Editor of the *American Annals of the Deaf*. Published by the Volta Bureau. Washington, D. C., 1898; pp. 527.

Dr. Fay has brought together in this work the results of the valuable statistics which he was authorized to collect for the United States Census of 1890 relative to the deaf in the United States. The work is largely statistical and has been very carefully prepared. The term "deaf" as used in this inquiry refers to the "totally deaf," "very deaf," or those who have attended schools for the deaf. The marriages considered extend over nearly the whole of the nineteenth century, and are 4471 in number. The tabulation of these comprises 360 pages, and contains the known and essential data relative to each marriage. From these the author has compiled 92 short tables, in order to answer as fully as possible the following questions:—

1. Are marriages of deaf persons more liable to result in deaf offspring than ordinary marriages?

2. Are marriages in which both partners are deaf more liable to result in deaf offspring than marriages in which one of the partners is deaf and the other is a hearing person?

3. Are certain classes of the deaf, however they may marry, more liable than others to have deaf children? If so, how are these classes respectively compared, and what are the conditions that increase or decrease this liability?

4. Aside from the question of the liability of the offspring to deafness, are marriages in which both partners are deaf more likely to result happily than marriages in which one partner is deaf and the other is a hearing person?

From the final summary and conclusions it appears that marriages of the deaf are more common in the United States than in Europe. The pupils of American schools for the deaf, who are recorded as married, constitute 23 per cent of the whole number of such pupils up to 1890, while in the countries of Europe, except Denmark, it varies from 12 to 7 per cent, a fact which the author attributes partly to the absence of marriage restrictions in America and to more prosperous circumstances.

Marriages of the deaf have rapidly increased in America in the present century; this being due largely to the establishment of schools for the deaf.

Deaf and Hearing Partners. A majority of the married deaf have married deaf rather than hearing partners; the proportion of such marriages in which both partners were deaf was 72.5 per cent.

Productiveness. Marriages of deaf persons, one or both of the partners being deaf, are probably somewhat but not much less productive than ordinary marriages. The average number of children of deaf persons to each mother who had children was 2.6.

Deaf Offspring; One or More Partners Deaf. Marriages of deaf persons, one or both partners being deaf, are far more liable to result in deaf offspring than ordinary marriages. The proportion of marriages of the deaf resulting in deaf offspring was 9.7 per cent, and the proportion of deaf children born therefrom was 8.6 per cent. The proportion of ordinary marriages resulting in deaf offspring is unknown (estimated by the author as less than $\frac{1}{10}$ of 1 per cent). On the other

hand, marriages of the deaf are far more likely to result in hearing offspring than in deaf offspring, the proportion of hearing children reported being at least 75 per cent. These results are in accordance, on the one hand, with the law of heredity that a physical anomaly or an unusual liability to certain diseases existing in the parent tends to be transmitted to the offspring; and, on the other hand, with the law of heredity that the offspring tend to revert to the normal type.

Both Partners Deaf or One Partner Hearing. It is not necessary for hereditary transmission that both partners should be deaf. On the contrary, taking the deaf as a whole, marriages in which both partners are deaf are not more liable to result in deaf offspring than those in which one partner is deaf and the other is a hearing person.

Partners Congenitally or Adventitiously Deaf. Congenitally deaf persons whether married to one another or to the adventitiously deaf are more liable to have deaf offspring than are the adventitiously deaf. This liability is greatest when both partners are congenitally deaf. Marriages of adventitiously deaf persons are more liable to result in deaf offspring than ordinary marriages. The greater liability to deaf offspring of marriages of the congenitally deaf than of the adventitiously deaf is in accordance with the generally accepted law of heredity that congenital or innate characteristics are far more likely to be transmitted to the offspring than acquired characteristics.

Partners Having Deaf Relatives. Deaf persons having deaf relatives, however they are married, and hearing persons having deaf relatives and married to deaf partners, are very liable to have deaf offspring. In marriages where both partners are congenitally deaf, and both have deaf relatives, the proportion of them having deaf offspring, and the proportion of deaf offspring born therefrom, are very high (28.4 and 30.3 per cent), but where neither of the partners has deaf relatives, even though both of them are congenitally deaf, the liability appears to be slight.

Partners Consanguineous. The marriages of the deaf most liable to result in deaf offspring are those in which the partners are related by consanguinity. Thirty-one such marriages were recorded, of which 14 or 45.1 per cent resulted in deaf offspring, and 100 children were born of these 31 marriages of which 30 per cent were deaf.

Happiness. Marriages in which both of the partners are deaf are more likely, other things being equal, to result happily than those in

which one of the partners is deaf and the other is a hearing person. The favorable conditions in such cases are the strong bond of mutual fellowship growing out of their similar condition, the ease and freedom of their communication with each other, and the identity of their social relations outside the domestic circle.

These highly valuable researches are due to the liberality of Dr. A. Graham Bell as the originator of the work, and the task has been completed in this very thorough and useful compilation by Dr. Fay.

S. W. A.